THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) These areas are already under exploration. At present, exploratory drilling of one well each is continuing in Kerala-Konkon (Cochin-High-I) and Bengal offshore (SM-M-I) Basins.

Simplifying rules for Small Scales Industries Sector

181. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to simplify the rules and procedures guiding the small scale industries sector to facilitate their rapid growth; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Simplification of rules and procedures for the Small Scale Industries Sector to facilitate its rapid growth is a continuing process. Government has announced number of simplifications in rules and procedures for helping the sector to avail of various facilities and concessions extended to it from time to time which include adoption of unified application form for advancing loans to small scale industries by banking institutions; facility to introduce margin money in States, simplification of procedure for availing of excise concessions under the Small Scale Exemption Scheme such as self assessment procedure for clearances upto Rs. 50 lakhs, restriction of excise inspection to maximum once a year for each small scale unit and treating mere postal acknowledgement of application for licence as an excise licence, etc.

Issue of letters of intent for setting up industries

182. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters of intent issued by Government during the years 1985, 1986 and so far in 1987 for setting up industries;

(b) what is the number of letters of intent issued during the same period for setting up industries in backward areas and in no-industry districts;

(c) the number of industries actually set-up;

(d) the reasons for which industries were not set up by people holding letters of intent;

(e) whether Government propose to hold an Inquiry to find out the number of fake entrepreneurs who seek letters of intent but do not set up industries; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the I (D&R) Act, the following number of letters of intent have been granted during